

Senate Resolution 10 - Introduced

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 10

BY BOLKCOM, DVORSKY, HART, HOGG, TAYLOR, BISIGNANO,
and DANIELSON

1 A Resolution affirming Iowa's commitment to net
2 neutrality.

3 WHEREAS, broadband Internet access is an essential
4 part of daily life for all people in Iowa and networks
5 are often becoming our basic and only communication
6 platform, and Governor Branstad and the Iowa General
7 Assembly have recognized the importance of extending
8 broadband Internet access to all Iowans; and

9 WHEREAS, access to an open Internet is important
10 for each and every constituent of Iowa as the Internet
11 becomes a driver of our economy, our educational
12 system, our health care services, our government
13 institutions, and our democratic discourse; and

14 WHEREAS, access to an open Internet gives
15 individuals, associations, investors, and entrepreneurs
16 the power to run small businesses, contribute to the
17 marketplace of ideas, partake in civic engagement, and
18 exercise freedom of speech; and

19 WHEREAS, the open Internet developed and thrived
20 under the principle that broadband providers cannot
21 block, discriminate against, or interfere with the
22 lawful content, applications, and services that
23 these broadband networks carry, and that broadband
24 customers may choose to access over the broadband
25 connections; and

26 WHEREAS, this principle, commonly referred to as
27 "net neutrality", protects innovation and creativity

1 by preventing broadband providers from unreasonably
2 favoring or prioritizing their own voice, video,
3 messaging, or other communications services over
4 offerings from entities unaffiliated with such
5 broadband providers; and

6 WHEREAS, this principle preserved the long-standing
7 ideal of ensuring that communications networks are
8 open to all speakers on similar terms, while ensuring
9 that broadband providers will continue to invest in
10 abundant capacity rather than creating incentives
11 for underinvestment, scarcity, and prioritization of
12 traffic on purposefully congested networks; and

13 WHEREAS, without the continuation of net neutrality,
14 the public will not benefit from competition, job
15 creation, and technological innovation, as our entire
16 economy becomes more vulnerable to the profit motives
17 of large broadband providers that could charge new fees
18 for access to broadband customers; and

19 WHEREAS, violations of net neutrality create
20 uncertainty and the potential for broadband providers
21 to extort fees from Internet sites and thereby threaten
22 Iowa businesses that rely on the Internet, particularly
23 our burgeoning community of technology start-up
24 businesses; and

25 WHEREAS, the federal communications commission's
26 authority to safeguard net neutrality, and to
27 ensure that our nation's broadband networks remain
28 competitive, open, and nondiscriminatory in the
29 carriage of our information has come into question as a
30 result of a federal appellate court decision issued in

1 January 2014; NOW THEREFORE,

2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate
3 supports an open Internet protected by the principle of
4 net neutrality; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate supports
6 the federal communications commission's adoption of
7 open Internet rules that will categorically protect
8 our state's residents and businesses from blocking,
9 discrimination, and undue interference by broadband
10 providers with the information the providers carry for
11 their customers; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate supports
13 the federal communications commission's use of
14 that agency's jurisdiction over all interstate
15 telecommunications services as the basis of its
16 authority to adopt and enforce these protections
17 for the free flow of information over our nation's
18 essential broadband communications infrastructure; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate urges Iowa's
20 United State senators and representatives to support,
21 and make known their support, for strong net neutrality
22 regulations that mandate that broadband providers
23 not block, discriminate against, or interfere with
24 the lawful content, applications, and services that
25 these broadband networks carry and that broadband
26 customers may choose to access over the broadband
27 connections; and

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of
29 the Senate is directed to distribute a copy of this
30 resolution to each member of Iowa's congressional

S.R. 10

1 delegation.